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Leicesters Buildings.

Lozels Tower.

Castle Tower.

Galt Boate.

KENILWORTH CASTLE FROM THE N. E.

Published by W. H. Sturt & Son, Ltd., 10, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

A
GUIDE
TO
KENILWORTH,
CONTAINING A BRIEF
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE
Castle, Priory, and Church;
WITH A PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF
THE PRESENT STATE
OF
THE CASTLE,
AND NOTICES OF THE
PRIORY RUINS, AND THE CHURCH.

Illustrated with a Plan and Six other Engravings.

Coventry :

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ADVERTISEMENT.

The Editors of the present work, impressed with a sense of the very interesting and important situation of the subject of their publication, have spared neither time nor labour to render it acceptable to their readers.

The Castle of Kenilworth, situated nearly in the centre of the county of Warwick, equidistant from Coventry, Warwick, and the increasingly fashionable Spa of Leamington, cannot but be an object of great and deserved curiosity. The traveller passing through Kenilworth will be forcibly struck with the grandeur of its ivy-mantled towers, and the majesty of its architecture; and his curiosity being excited, an enquiry will follow as to the period of its construction, its owners, the historical events connected with it, and the cause of its present state of decay.

To gratify this curiosity—to exhibit to the public a correct, yet brief account of the place, as it was in “the olden time,” and a description of it as it is at present, has been the desire of the Editors; which they trust they have satisfactorily accomplished.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

HENRY THE FIRST

BY

JOHN GILBERT FROTHINGHAM

OF THE BARRISTERS AT LAW

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOLUME THE FIRST

LONDON

PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD

KENILWORTH CASTLE

WAS built by Geffrey de Clinton, Chamberlain and Treasurer to King Henry I. concerning whose parentage there is some degree of obscurity. It is contended, on the one hand, that he was grandson to William de Tankerville, Chamberlain of Normandy ; whilst others suppose him to have risen from the lowest rank in life, through the favour of his Sovereign, who poured honours and wealth upon him with an unsparing hand ; making him Lord Chamberlain, then his Treasurer, and finally Justice of England ; and from these high situations being all centered in him, we have reason to conclude he was a man of more than common talent.

One part alone remains of the Castle built by him, viz. Cesar's Tower ; but his name is preserved, being handed down to posterity,

in the appellation given to a small piece of ground, at a short distance north of the Castle, still called Clinton Green.

The possession of this place was, however, but a short time held by Geffrey de Clinton; for we find that in the 11th Henry II. it was in the hands of the Crown, and the Sheriff accounted for the profit of the park; and in the 19th year of the same Monarch's reign it was garrisoned by the King, in consequence of the rebellion of his eldest son; with whom, historians tell us, Lewis King of France, Robert Earl of Leicester, and many other great men, took part.

The Castle continued in the Crown until the 38th Henry III. except for a few years, when it was in the possession of Geffrey de Clinton, the son and heir of the founder; but in the 38th Henry III. that Monarch granted it to Simon Montford, Earl of Leicester, and Eleanor his wife, during their lives; which same Simon was the principal ringleader in the rebellion against his benefactor, in the 42d year of his reign, when the Barons, having armed themselves, held a Parliament at Oxford by force, and compelled the King's assent to their unjust and dishonourable ordinances. He died in the

battle of Evesham, in the 48th Henry III. with his eldest son Henry Montford, and many persons of high rank. The Castle, however, was still held by his son Simon Montford, who received therein many who fled from the battle, with the friends and followers of those that were slain; and he continued there spoiling the country until the following Midsummer, when the King made preparations to march with his army against the Castle to subdue it.

In the mean time, Simon Montford, leaving Henry de Hastings governor, went away privately and journeyed to France, for the purpose of providing sufficient force to raise the siege of the Castle, when it should have commenced, but returned again without being able to accomplish his intention.

Henry set forward for Kenilworth with banners and ensigns displayed, having a numerous army and a plentiful stock of provisions, and on the morrow following the feast of the nativity of St. John the Baptist, begirt the Castle on all sides; and after a siege of six months, it was surrendered on the 21st December, 1216; and almost immediately afterwards granted by the King to Edmund, his younger son, and to the heirs of his body

lawfully begotten; reserving to himself the advowsons of the Priory of Kenilworth, and Abbey of Stoneleigh.

This possessor was afterwards created Earl of Leicester, and subsequently Earl of Lancaster.

After this, in the 15th Edward II. Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, being attainted, the Castle again became the property of the Crown, and was held by Edward II. until the latter part of his reign; when, foreseeing the approaching rebellion, he ordered Odo de Stoke, then his Constable, to garrison the Castle; but these orders were issued too late, for being seized in Wales, by Henry, Earl of Lancaster, (brother to him who was attainted of treason, and also his heir,) he was brought to this Castle, and confined until he had consented to abandon the throne, and place his eldest son in his stead. The pitiable end of this monarch at Berkeley Castle, in Gloucestershire, will be long and painfully remembered.

In the 1st of Edward III. the above-named Henry was restored to the earldoms of Lancaster and Leicester, and all his brother's lands, whereof this was part. He was succeeded by his son Henry, created

successively Earl of Derby, and of Lincoln, and lastly Duke of Lancaster; who died in the 35th Edward III. without male heirs; but leaving two daughters, viz. Maud, who married William, Duke of Bavaria; and Blanche, who became consort of John of Gaunt, fourth son of King Edward III. shortly afterwards created Duke of Lancaster; and on partition being made of the lands of the last Duke of Lancaster, this Castle, and its appendages, among other possessions, became the property of Blanche.

This John of Gaunt, towards the latter end of the reign of Richard II. began to construct all the ancient buildings here, (except Cesar's tower,) with the outer walls and turrets; and the Great Hall and Tower adjacent is, by tradition, called Lancaster's Buildings to this day.

Henry IV. his son succeeded to the possession of this Castle; and consequently it was again vested, and subsequently continued in the crown, being united to the dukedom of Cornwall, in the 1st of Henry VII. as part of the possessions of the Dutchy of Lancaster.

Thus it remained until the reign of Elizabeth, who by letters patent, dated the 9th

June, in the 5th year of her reign, granted it to Robert Dudley (one of the sons of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland,) and his heirs; and in the following year she raised him to the dignity of Earl of Leicester.

This potent Baron added to the already magnificent structure of Kenilworth Castle, the noble Gatehouse, and that part called Leicester's Buildings; besides the Flood Gate, and the Gallery Tower, in which was a spacious apartment for ladies to witness the exercises of tilting and barriers; and Mortimer's Tower, whereupon the arms of Mortimer were cut in stone, was also erected by him. Such indeed was the extent of his improvements, that in beautifying and enlarging the Castle, he is said to have expended sixty thousand pounds.

On the 17th July, 1575, Queen Elizabeth aid a visit to the Earl at this Castle, where she continued 17 days; and the following extract from Dugdale will give the reader some idea of the splendour of the entertainments:—

“ Here in July, an. 1575 (17 Eliz.) having compleated all things for her reception, did he entertain the Queen, for the space of

seventeen dayes, with excessive cost, and variety of delightfull shews, as may be seen at large in a special discourse thereof then printed, and entituled, ‘The Princely Pleasures of Kenilworth Castle;’ having at her first entrance a floating island upon the pool, bright blazing with torches, upon which were clad in silks the Lady of the Lake, and two nymphs waiting on her, who made a speech to the Queen, in meeter, of the antiquity and owners of that Castle, which was closed with cornets and other loud musick. Within the base court was there a very goodly bridge set up of twenty foot wide, and seventy foot long, over which the Queen did pass, on each side whereof were posts erected with presents upon them unto her by the Gods, viz. a cage of wild fowl by Silvanus; sundry sorts of rare fruit by Pomona; of corn by Ceres; of wine by Bacchus; of sea fish by Neptune; of all habiliments of war by Mars; and of musical instruments by Phœbus. And for the several dayes of her stay, various and rare sports were there exercised, viz. in the *Chase* a savage man with satyrs: bear-baitings, fire-works, Italian tumblers, a country bride ale, with running at the quintin, and morrice dancing. And that there might be

nothing wanting that these parts could afford, hither came the Coventre men, and acted the ancient play, long since used in that City, called *Hocks Tuesday*, setting forth the destruction of the Danes in King Ethelred's time ; with which the Queen was so pleas'd that she gave them a brace of bucks, and five marks in money to bear the charges of a feast. Besides all this, he had upon the pool a triton riding on a mermaid, 18 foot long ; as also Arion on a dolphin, with rare music. And to honour this entertainment the more, there were then knighted here Sir Thomas Cecill, son and heir to the Lord Treasurer, Sir Henry Cobham, brother to the Lord Cobham, Sir Francis Stanhope, and Sir Thomas Tresham. The costs and expence whereof may be guessed at by the quantity of beer then drunk, which amounted to 320 hogsheads of the ordinary sort, as I have credibly heard."

The Earl of Leicester, by will, in 1587, bequeathed the Castle to his brother, Ambrose Earl of Warwick, for life, and after his death to his son, Sir Robert Dudley, Knight, and his heirs, and dying in the year 1588, was buried in Saint Mary's Chapel, Warwick.

Ambrose Dudley enjoyed the Castle but a short time, for he died in February 1589, at Bedford House, in the suburbs of London, in consequence of a wound received in the service of his country, and was buried at his own desire in Saint Mary's Chapel, Warwick, where a magnificent marble monument records the favours conferred on him by his sovereign—his marriages, and his death.

On his decease, his nephew, Sir Robert Dudley, succeeding to the Castle, made it his residence, and endeavoured to prove his being the legitimate son of the Earl of Leicester, which was somewhat doubtful, owing to the marriage of his father with the Countess of Essex during the life-time of Lady Douglas, his mother; but failing in this proof, he procured the King's license to travel abroad for three years, and went into Italy. His enemies, however, obtained a summons for his return by a special privy seal; and this not being obeyed, the Castle and all the lands were seized to the King's use, by virtue of the statute of fugitives, and thereupon surveyed, a copy of which survey, as it manifests the strength and value of the place, we here introduce:—

“The Castle of Kenilworth, situate upon a rock;

“ 1. The circuit thereof within the walls containeth 7 acres, upon which the walks are so spacious and fair, that two or three persons together may walk upon most places thereof.

“ 2. The Castle, with the 4 gate houses, all built of free stone, hewn and cut; the walls in many places of fifteen and ten foot thickness, some more, some less, the least four foot in thickness square.

“ 3. The Castle and four gate houses all covered with lead; whereby it is subject to no other decay than the glass, through the extremity of the weather.

“ 4. The rooms of great state within the same, and such as are able to receive his Majestie, the Queen, and Prince, at one time, built with as much uniformity and conveniency as any houses of later time; and with such stately cellars, all carryed upon pillars, and architecture of free stone, carved and wrought as the like are not within this kingdom; and also all other houses for offices answerable.

“ 5. There lyeth about the same, in chases and parks, 1200l. per An. 900l. whereof are grounds for pleasure, the rest in meadow and pasture thereunto adjoyning, tenants and freeholders.

“ 6. There joyneth upon this ground a park-like ground, called the *King's Wood*, with 15 several copices lying altogether, containing 789 acres within the same; which, in the Earl of Leicester's time, was stored with red deer; since which time the deer strayed, but the ground in no sort blemished, having great store of timber, and other trees of much value upon the same.

“ 7. There runneth through the said grounds, by the walls of the Castle, a fair pool, containing one hundred and eleven acres, well stored with fish and fowl, which at pleasure is to be let round about the Castle.

“ 8. In timber and woods upon this ground to the value (as hath been offered) of 20,000*l.* (having a convenient time to remove them) which to his Majesty in the survey are but valued at 11,722*l.* which proportion, in a like measure, is held in all the rest, upon the other values to his Majestie.

“ 9. The circuit of the castle, manours, parks, and chase, lying round together, contain at least 19 or 20 miles, in a pleasant country; the like both for strength, state, and pleasure not being within the realm of England.

“ 10. These lands have been survey'd by Commissioners from the King and the Lord Privy Seal, with directions from his Lordship to find all things under the true worth, and upon oath of jurors, as well freeholders as customary tenants; which course being held by them, are, notwithstanding, surveyed, and returned at 38,554l. 15s. Od. out of which, for Sir Robert Dudley's contempt, there is to be deducted 10,000l. and for Lady Dudley's joynture, which is without impeachment for waste, whereby she may fell all the woods, which by the survey amount to 11,722l.

The total of the survey ariseth as followeth—

In Land..... 16,431l. 9s. Od.

In Woods 11,722l. 2s. Od.

The Castle..... 10,401l. 4s. Od.

His Majestie hath herein the mean profits of the Castle and premises, through Sir Robert Dudley's contempt, during his life, or his Majesty's pardon; the reversion in fee being in the Lord Privy Seal.”

Henry, Prince of Wales, however, being desirous of making this Castle his occasional residence, made overtures to Sir Robert Dudley, for the purchase of it, and the

manors appurtenant thereto (at a price, indeed, far below its value); and it was accordingly sold to him for 14,500*l.* but only 3000*l.* was paid, in consequence of the death of Prince Henry; and even that was lost in the hands of a merchant, so that Sir Robert Dudley reaped no benefit from it.

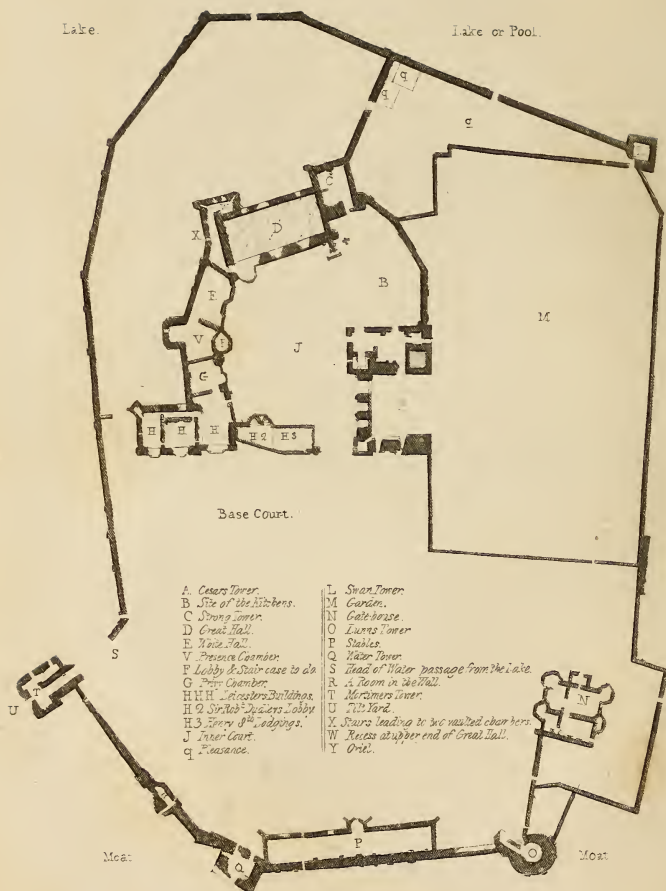
Prince Henry was succeeded in this property by his brother Charles; who, soon after his accession to the throne, granted the custody of it to Robert Earl of Monmouth, Henry Lord Carey, his eldest son, and Thomas Carey, Esq. together with the park and chase, during their lives, and the longest liver of them; and in their possession it rested till the commonwealth. During the civil wars, when the hand of every man was against his neighbour, and when victory or defeat seemed equally a plea for rapacity and cruelty; this splendid edifice, towering in grandeur, long the seat of baronial, and not unfrequently of royal magnificence, became a prey to the followers of Cromwell; by whom it was stripped of its beauty as a residence, its woods uprooted, its towers dismantled, and its lake drained. Thus desolated, it now affords a melancholy spectacle of the transitory nature of human posses-

sion. No longer can we view it in that state of perfection and grandeur, when within its walls Kings and Queens, in all the pomp of splendour and royalty, revelled in delight—no longer, in the silence of night, can we hear the foot-fall of the sentinel, as he pursues his tedious march on its embattled towers! The deadly ivy hath expanded o'er its walls, seeming to hide them with a curtain of living green, save where the tracery of some window shews it had once been inhabited.

After the restoration, Charles II. granted the ruins and the estate to Lawrence Hyde, second son of the celebrated Lord Chancellor, whom he created Baron of Kenilworth, and Earl of Rochester; and it subsequently descended to Jane, the daughter of Henry, third and last Earl of Clarendon and Rochester, who married William Capel, Earl of Essex; and her daughter, Charlotte, in the year 1752, married the Right Hon. Thomas Villiers, in whom the title of Earl of Clarendon was revived in 1776, whose immediate descendant now holds the property.

A
DESCRIPTION
OF
THE PRESENT STATE
OF
KENILWORTH CASTLE,
FROM A SURVEY TAKEN
A. D. 1821.





PLAN OF
KENILWORTH CASTLE.

DESCRIPTION, &c.

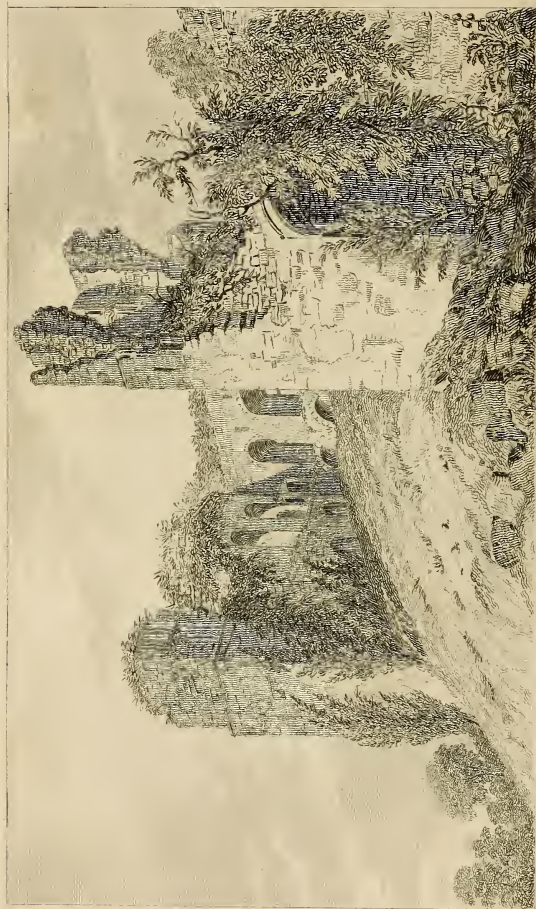
On entering the area of the Castle by the modern approach from the north, the first object of notice is—

THE GATE HOUSE,

Built by the Earl of Leicester (a view of which is given in the general representation of the Castle from the N. E.) On its South front is a shield, with the arms of Beauchamp; and its S.W. turret contains a circular staircase, the steps of solid oak, leading to the several stories, and to the roof, where the other turrets end in small apartments. Its present door is on the W. side, to which has been added a porch from Dudley's Lobby, having in the spandrils of the arch the initials R. L. On the gate-house being converted into a dwelling house by one of the Oliverian officers, its original arch-way

of twelve feet wide was closed, and divided into two rooms, of which the inner one, lined with oak wainscot, bearing the Ragged Staff in many places, contains a splendid chimney piece, the lower part of which is of alabaster, and being "curiously wrought," is probably that which belonged to the Privy Chamber. It has been richly decorated with gilding, and bears the inscription—" *Droit et Loyal*" on the transverse part of the chimney piece, with the initials R. L. on each side, between which are his arms and cognizance, encircled with the garter. The smaller shields are charged with double-tailed lions, the ancient arms of Dudley, and the date of 1571 appears in the turn-up of the initial L. on the right hand. The motto of " *Droit et Loyal*" is in bold relief, but the words " *Vivit Post Funera Virtus*," in intaglio, seem to have been added after the Earl's death. The upper part of oak, no less curious for its elaborate design and carving, was probably taken out of the Presence Chamber. It bears the initials E. R. in honour of the Virgin Queen; and the centre tablet shews marks of having held a shield, on which we may conjecture that the royal arms were displayed.





KENILWORTH CASTLE.—CESAR'S TOWER, FROM THE GARDEN

Published by Meriden & Son Country & John Meriden Warwick Jan'y 1st 1895

See Kenilworth Novel Vol. 2 Page 350

Following the local situation of the buildings of the Castle itself, as laid down in the plan, and with strict accordance as to their chronological order, we commence with

CESAR'S TOWER,

“ Which,” to use the words of Sir William Dugdale, “ by the thickness of its walls, and form of building, appears to have been of the first foundation,” in the time of Henry I. Its eastern front is shewn in the general view of the Castle, from the N. E. ; and the south front of this massive pile forms a conspicuous object in the centre of the general view from the S. W. Unlike many other Norman keeps, it had no dungeon ; at least no receptacle of the kind has been discovered, though an examination has been made for the depth of seventeen feet, down to the natural bed of gravel. The place of confinement for prisoners in early times, mentioned in cotemporary records, must, therefore, have been in one of the corner turrets ; but at a later period, the strong Tower, hereafter to be described, would

afford suitable accommodation. The north side of this stupendous Keep, shewn in the annexed view from the garden, is totally down, having been destroyed either to render it untenable for military purposes, or by the Oliverian officers for the value of the stone.

Horace Walpole, in his *Anecdotes of Painting*, vol. ii. p. 152, note, speaking of the "trifling singularity" with which Lincoln's Inn Fields was laid out, in the exact dimensions of one of the Pyramids, observes that "this would have been admired in those ages when the Keep at Kenilworth Castle was erected in the form of a horse fetter," and the Escorial in the shape of "Saint Lawrence's gridiron." But the architect of the Keep deserved no such sarcasm; as a reference to the plan will satisfy the reader. Its walls are in several places no less than sixteen feet thick; and all its parts are on the same scale of durability. The upper windows have been altered on the exterior, from circular-headed openings to square ones; corresponding in style with Leicester's other works. The turrets at each corner were evidently much higher originally, as the range of loop-holes indicate;

above which would rise the battlements. The clock, described in Laneham's account of Queen Elizabeth's visit to the Castle, was fixed in the S. E. angle; the places where the dials were fastened remaining still visible. In this angle is also the well, the entrance to which, to prevent accidents, is closed, though not until the well had been thoroughly emptied, and its depth and construction ascertained in the year 1819. It is seventy feet deep from the ground floor of the Tower, and from thence it passes upwards in the thickness of the wall, to the second floor, a space of twenty more,—making together ninety feet. It is three feet wide at the top, and four feet at the bottom. The water issues from a fissure of the rock, about two feet above the bottom: it is a strong spring, and rises about ten feet. The well is quoined down to the rock about sixty feet, and then for ten feet is made perfectly round and smooth through the rock, which is of red sand-stone. Nothing of consequence was discovered in it.

The great staircase occupied the N. E. angle, but in the corresponding turret at the S. W. there seems to have been another staircase of later construction, leading to the

chief apartments. Some paintings in fresco, on the plaster, in imitation of recesses with trefoil heads, are seen higher up this turret; an indication possibly of its having been the chapel mentioned by Dugdale. The original entrance to the Keep was on the west, to which an ascent was gained, either by a flight of steps exposed to observation on the outside, or by a small subsidiary tower, as at Rochester, and other ancient Castles. The place of this staircase or tower is now occupied by an arcade of Leicester's time, with the remains of a date of 1170, for 1570; which, by some stone steps recently laid open, led under an arch of an earlier period (shewn in the preceding view,) into

THE GARDEN.

Of this appendage to the general grandeur of the Castle, with its aviary, fountain,* &c.

* A view of this fountain is preserved in the copy made by Beighton in 1716, of a large fresco painting, formerly at Newnham Padox, representing the Castle (in its perfect state) as it appeared in 1620, and from which an engraving was made in 1817, and published by MERRIDEW and SON, of Coventry.

no better account can be given than by Laneham,* who saw it in its splendour. To the west of the arcade, the remains of

THE KITCHENS

are discernible, by an oven and other culinary arrangements; though the principal walls are levelled to the ground. The ivy here spreads luxuriantly, in many a "gadding spray," from stems of enormous growth, as it does in several other parts of the Castle, with various profusion, but always with grace and effect.

Still following the order of the plan, we next come to

THE STRONG TOWER,

Or part of Lancaster's Buildings; so called from John of Gaunt, in whose time it was

* *Laneham's Letter*, containing an account "of the entertainment untoo the Queenz Maiesty at Killingwoorth Castl, in Warwik Sheer, in this Somerz Progress, 1575," has been recently re-printed, in a work entitled "*Kenilworth Illustrated*."

erected ; though, without a shadow of historical authority, “ the Wizzard of the North ” has given it the name of Mervyn’s Tower ; by which appellation it will, no doubt, be known for as many years to come as his book contains pages.

The view annexed is from the arcade above mentioned ; and the exterior is seen, in the extreme distance beyond the Great Hall, in the general view of the Castle, from the S. W. A slightly-pointed arch gives entrance to a groined apartment, of one large, and two smaller divisions. The inner one is engraved in Plate 43 of Carter’s Ancient Architecture, and its pointed vaulting, and uniting torus, noticed as very peculiar ; though that able artist seems to have mistaken the date of the building. This small room has a perforation in its S. wall, through which a sliding beam once passed, to barricade the door to the Sally Port, in the adjoining vault beneath the Great Hall. A single room of the second story, by this access, has been partially cleared. It is also groined, and has a closet at the N. W. angle. Near the window of this apartment are two coats of arms, scratched in the stone. First, *Between three cross crosslets a bend,*



KENILWORTH CASTLE — STRONG TOWER.

From the N.E. (called by the Author of Waverley Mervyn's Tower)

Engraved by Merriman & Son (Engravers) & John Merriman Warwick Jan 17th 1825.

charged with three pheons. Above it in black letter *Bland*. Edmondson, in his Heraldry, gives argent on a bend sable, three pheons of the field for *Bland, of Kippax Park*, in Yorkshire; and for *Bland of London and Yorkshire*, the same, only the pheons Or.

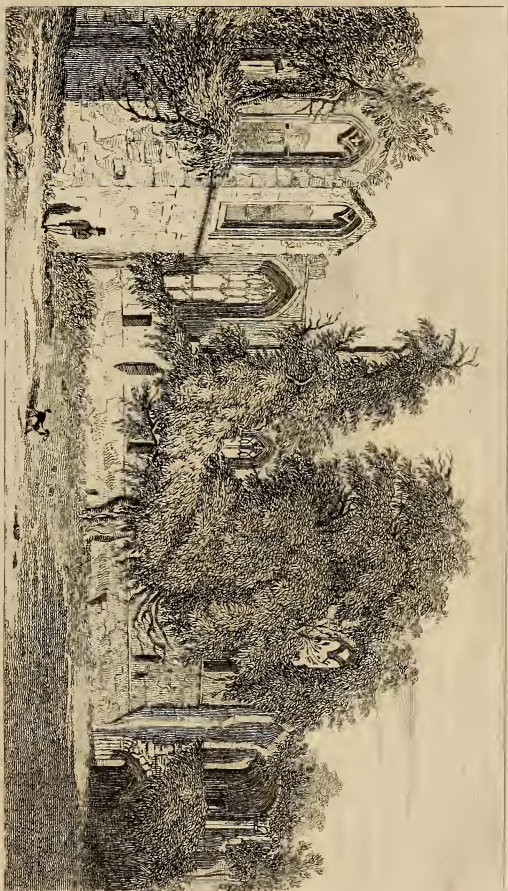
Second, *Quarterly, first and fourth, a cross flory, second and third, three crescents (inverted.)* These are the arms of the *Frevile Family*, who, according to Edmondson, in some branches, bore *Or, a cross flory gules*; and in others *gules three crescents ermine*.

The third story is a mass of ruin, from the falling in of the roof; but it has contained a similar groined apartment to those below, with a corresponding closet at the angle. The word *Dormer* in black letter is scratched on the wall of this room; and a gallery at the S. corner communicates with a circular staircase, rising to the roof, as well as descending a few steps to a similar gallery, which on one hand is connected with a room and closet like the former, and on the other with

THE

THE GREAT HALL.

The exterior of this magnificent apartment towards the inner court with its oriel, is shewn in the plate annexed. The steps leading to the highly enriched doorway are fallen down and removed; but the arches, which once in part supported them, remain. The interior of the Hall shews an undercroft of six arches in length, and three in breadth, originally bearing a groined roof. The lowest arch at the north end was separated from the others by a wall, to form a passage to the opening leading to the Sally Port, and in the corresponding window above it is a circular aperture, through which the chain of the portcullis, or sliding door, acted. The cross bar, for further security, has been noticed in the adjoining strong tower. The undercroft, appropriated only to military and domestic stores, is lighted by four loop-holes only, of singular formation. It is, no doubt, referred to in the survey, page 16, as part of "such stately sellars, all carried upon



KENILWORTH CASTLE—GREAT HALL AND ORIEL.

Published by Merriden & Son, Groby & John Merriden, Warwick, Jan'y 1st 1825.

See Kenilworth Novel Vol. 3 Page 68.

pillars and architecture of free stone, carved and wrought as the like are not within this kingdom." The pillars and groining are represented in the plan, and must not be mistaken as belonging to the Hall above, whose roof was supported by trusses of timber, the holes of which are to be seen betwixt the windows. The dimensions of the Hall are about ninety feet by forty-five, which, with the latter measure for height, would give a double cube, an admired proportion amongst ancient builders. The windows, though bereft of their glass, and of a principal part of their tracery, still appear graceful in outline, and must once have been exceedingly beautiful.

There is a fire-place on each side; and on the side next to the inner court is an oriel, in plan comprehending five sides of an octagon, with three large windows, a smaller window, and a fire-place. On the opposite side of the Hall is a recess, with a single window, and a small closet, ridiculously called Queen Elizabeth's Dressing Room, though probably only a voider, or, in modern language, a butler's pantry. This recess joins another to the south, of equal dimensions, but with two windows and a staircase.

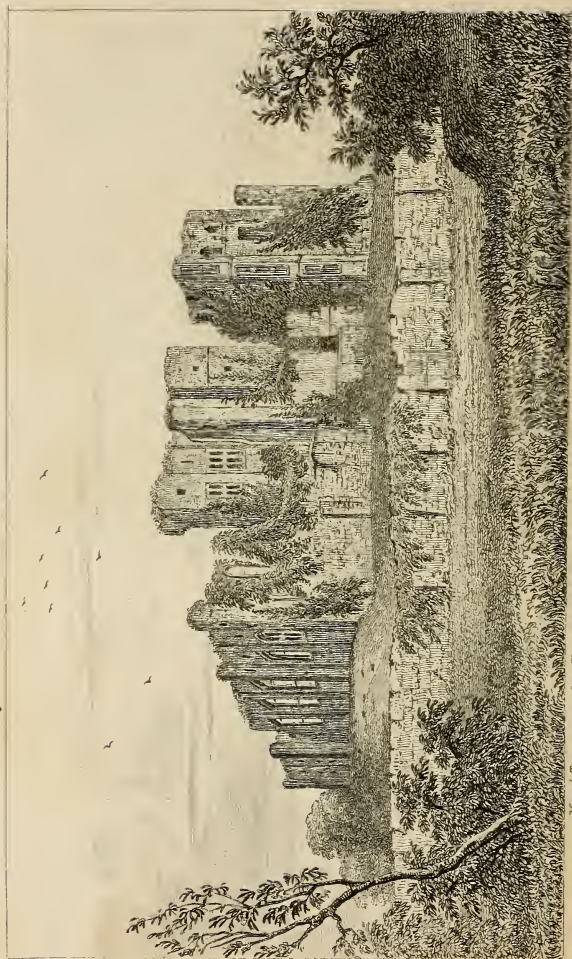
Passing hence towards the White Hall, is another winding staircase, discovered in the year 1820, which terminates in two vaulted chambers.

THE WHITE HALL.

Of this apartment, which from the situation of a loop-hole on the N. side, must have been erected previously to the Great Hall, little can be ascertained beyond its dimensions, which were fifty-eight feet by twenty-five; and that it had two bay windows. It had also a door into

THE PRESENCE CHAMBER,

An irregularly-formed room, about thirty-eight feet long, connected with a tower and staircase of four stories. The exterior lobby with steps leading to the inner court, is an half octagon. According to a valuation made shortly after the death of Leicester,



Mermaid Tower.

Great Hall.

Caesar's Tower.

Lucas's Buildings.

KENILWORTH CASTLE, FROM THE S.W.

Published by Merricks & Son, Coventry & John Merridgen, Warwick Jan 1st 1825.

See Kenilworth Novel Vol 2 Page 331

the Presence Chamber was of “verie curious woorke, wainscotted, with the doores and the portals also.” Adjoining was

THE PRIVY CHAMBER,

Which had a bay window, and a fire-place opposite; from which the alabaster chimney piece, now in the Gate House, was probably removed. Its area was a square of about twenty-three feet.

LEICESTER'S BUILDINGS.

These are shewn in both the general views of the Castle; forming the mass to the left of the picture, in the view from the N. E. and rising in majestic height in the right of the S. W. view. The plan and representations here referred to, render any verbal description superfluous; but to correct a popular error, it may be observed that the great staircase flanked the centre apart-

ment; and that the projecting erection at the S. W. angle, usually called the staircase, and shewn in the general view from S. W. was a suit of closets or dressing rooms. On a tablet, below the middle window of the East front, is the date of 1571. Leicester's Buildings are now in a state of frightful dilapidation.

SIR ROBERT DUDLEY'S LOBBY

AND

HENRY VIII.'s LODGINGS.

These are levelled to the ground. The view of the Castle, in its entire state A. D. 1620, (published by the proprietors of the present work,) represents them directly ranging from Leicester's Buildings to Cesar's Tower, including the gate of entrance from the Base Court to the inner one; but the plan copied from Dugdale, notices a remarkable obliquity, and it has been deemed proper so to let it remain, until better evidence shall come to light upon the subject.

THE WALLS, TOWERS, &c.

The walls, encompassing an area of seven acres, were, according to the survey, in page 16, "so spacious and faire that two or three persons together may walk upon most places thereof;" and their present appearance justifies this description. They were protected by a breastwork, and had a sally port in their W. angle, opposite to the barricadoed door way under the Great Hall. Remains of fire-places are to be seen in several parts of the walls, round which slight temporary barracks for the garrison were no doubt set up when the wall required manning, or the number of soldiers was too large for reception within the body of the Castle.

There are no relics of the buildings of the Plaisance, though their situation is shewn in the plan marked K. at the right of the Strong Tower.

THE SWAN TOWER

Is situated at the extreme point, where the Plaisance and Garden join each other, and is a square building of about seventeen feet within, of which only the lower story is left. Its name may be derived from the swans upon the lake resorting to it, or some shelter for them being placed there.

LUNN'S TOWER,

Shewn in front of the general view from N. E. is polygonal, about twenty-one feet diameter within; has three stories, the two uppermost with fire-places, and on the outside a turret staircase. See the view.

THE STABLES.

The lower story of this range of buildings is of stone, the lofts are of brick and timber pane work ; each compartment having a diagonal piece of timber in it, rudely imitating the Ragged Staff.

THE WATER TOWER.

This is a most curious building, and well deserves the attention of the architectural antiquary. The ground floor is a square of about twenty feet within. The second story has a fire-place ; and there are stairs communicating with the top of the tower, which must have had a parapet for defensive purposes. Near the Water Tower is a

ROOM IN THE WALL,

Which may possibly have been the Guard House. It contains a fire-place and a locker, and has also a narrow passage leading to a loop-hole.

MORTIMER'S TOWER,

“Whereupon,” says Dugdale, “the arms of Mortimer were cut in stone, doubtless was so named by the Earl of Leicester, who raised it from the ground in memory of one more ancient that stood there formerly, wherein, as I guess, either the Lord Mortimer, at the time of that great and solemn tilting formerly mentioned, did lodge, or else because Sir John Mortimer, Knt. prisoner here in Henry V.’s time, was detained therein.” It has been lately cleared of its rubbish, and appears to have had an arched passage through it of ten feet wide, with a small room on each side for the residence of domestics. From Mortimer’s Tower we enter

THE TILT YARD,

Which is about 395 feet long, and from forty to fifty wide within, its walls forming

what was once the head or dam of the lake. It is now intersected by a deep ravine, through which the undetained stream flows down the valley. The stone work of its sluice in part remains.

At the other extremity of the Tilt Yard stood

THE FLOOD GATE,

OR

GALLERY TOWER,

which is reduced to a wall on the east side, forty-five feet long, in the direct line of the Tilt Yard, and thence turning westward with a slight angle to the distance of thirty-eight feet more. Dugdale informs us, that it was built by the Earl of Leicester, and contained "a spacious and noble room, for Ladies to see the exercises of tilting and barriers," but the Gallery itself does not appear to have been erected, if the following item of Leicester's will, preserved amongst the Sydney papers at Penshurst, in Kent, and "wrytten with his owen hand, the first of

August, in Myddelborow, 1587," can be supposed to relate to it. "Yf yt shall please my Lord and brother to buyld out the gall.. which I once intended, then to take such tymber as shall be valeyed...."

From this tower a bridge, the foundations of which may be still seen, was thrown across a dingle to the Brays, a pleasant knoll, (see Laneham's Letter,) deriving its name from "Bra, Brae, or Bray;" a word used in Scotland to the present day nearly in the same sense as the English *brow*. The Brays was defended on the east by two round towers, about 28 yards apart, between which was the chief entrance to the Castle, until the Earl of Leicester built "the magnificent Gate House towards the North," (see Dugdale,) and turned the back of his proud residence into the front. Here, however, Queen Elizabeth entered, when the Castle stood in all its glory; and it is certainly by far the most interesting approach for modern visitors to its ruins.

KENILWORTH

PRIORY AND CHURCH.

To many, amongst the numerous Visitors of Kenilworth, in its present high state of celebrity, it is conceived that some account of the Priory and Church will form an agreeable appendage to the preceding pages ; and in order to render this little Work as generally acceptable as possible, the following brief but authentic notices of those establishments is added.

KENILWORTH PRIORY.

The Priory was founded in the reign of Henry I. by Geffrey de Clinton (mentioned in the previous account of the Castle,) who placed canons regular of the order of St. Augustine therein, and richly endowed the monastery. His son Geffrey was also a great benefactor, as was his grandson Henry; upon whose death, Amicia de Bidun, his wife, released to the monks all her right of dowry in the lands given by her husband; and many other grants of land and church patronage were from time to time made to this monastery; so that in the survey taken 26 Henry VIII. the possessions were valued at £533. 15s. 4d. per annum, clear of all reprises. Three years afterwards, viz. April 15th, 29 Henry VIII. it was surrendered by Simon Jekys, then Abbot, and his brethren, all of whom were allowed pensions during their lives.

The scite of the monastery was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Andrew Flamock, from
; L. of C.





KENILWORTH PRIORY GATEWAY.

whom it descended to his son and heir Sir William ; whose daughter married John Colbourn, Esq. of Morton Morrell ; which Gentleman having incautiously purchased some horses that were stolen out of the Earl of Leicester's stables, at Kenilworth Castle, " as was pretended," (says Dugdale,) " became so terrified by Leicester, that he quit-
ted unto him all his right therein, upon easy tearmes, as I have heard."

Of the Priory buildings in general, few relics have escaped destruction, excepting the Gateway, a view whereof is annexed, and which closely adjoins the south-western side of the Church-yard. In 1729, when S. and N. Buck published their view of the ruins, some considerable masses of substantial masonry were in existence, exhibiting four door ways ; three apparently of Norman, and one of the pointed style of architecture ; also a larger and loftier fragment, decorated with two stories of circular arches, the lower in an interlaced, and the upper in a consecutive series. A part of this fragment, divested of its decorations, still remains ; and there is reason to believe that it formed a part of the Priory Church.

KENILWORTH CHURCH.

This, according to Dugdale, is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and although no account of its foundation is recorded by that historian, yet his list of Vicars commences in 1300, and the fine Norman arch in the West side of the Tower (hereafter to be described) is of a still earlier period.

In 1291 it was valued at eight marks, and the vicarage at one mark, but by the survey 26 Henry VIII. it seems that the Vicar had only a yearly stipend of 6l. 13s. 4d. paid by the Prior and Convent.

In 1570 the Earl of Leicester endowed the vicarage with the great and small tithes of all the freehold and copyhold estates, being the old common fields and enclosures within the manor. The same nobleman also repaired and beautified the chancel, took down its high roof, and substituted a flat one covered with lead, putting battlements round it, and his crest of the Bear and Ragged Staff on the apex at the East end, where

once had been a cross; which crest still remains.

He also wainscotted the chancel with oak, and gave a silver gilt chalice and cover, which form a part of the present church plate, as does "a large gilt flagon, a gilt bread bowl with a cover, and a gilt chalice, and cover, valued at sixty pounds," given in 1638 by Alice Duchess Dudley, with a condition, that if the plate was at any time "changed or made away with, it should be lawful for her heirs to challenge the worth of it from the parish." This Lady, in 1624, augmented the vicarage by the gift of certain lands at Mancetter, to the yearly rent of twenty pounds; and by Act of Parliament, in 1706, the tithes, 13s. 4d. per annum, were discharged, and the clear yearly value returned to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty was £34. The impropriator allows £12 per annum, besides the small tithes.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH.

The present entrance to the Church is by a porch ranging with the north aisle, having a floorless room above it. The original entrance was under a fine Norman* arch, in the west side of the tower, consisting of three successive mouldings; the first fluted, the second of bird's heads, and the third a fret, surrounded by a nail headed band; an ornamented square encircling the whole, having pateræ within the spandrels.

The Church consists of a nave, with north and south aisles, divided by pointed arches, and a chancel. In the south wall of the chancel are three plain pointed niches, the usual seats of the priest, deacon, and sub-deacon, in the times of the Roman Catholic ritual.

Amongst other Monuments in the Church, is a beautiful one in white marble, by Westmacott, against the east wall of the chancel, to the memory of Caroline, wife of Richard Gresley, Esquire, representing the sorrowful

* The lower part of this very curious specimen of ancient architecture has lately been laid open by the removal of a considerable accumulation of sand and rubbish.

husband and child taking their last farewell of the departing wife, who, with placid looks, and upraised eyes, is supported by her husband on a couch, at the foot of which is an attendant angel, with a palm branch in his hand, pointing upwards, to cheer her dying moments*. Beneath is the following inscription :—

Sacred to the Memory of

CAROLINE GRESLEY,

Wife of Richard Gresley, Esquire, Barrister at Law,
of this Parish.

She died in child-birth,

On the 1st of October, A.D. 1817,
aged 45 years.

Leaving her afflicted husband and six children
to lament their irreparable loss; namely,

William, Richard Newcombe, Francis, Caroline-
Mary, Andrew, and Elizabeth.

Unfeigned Piety, Purity of Thought, Mildness of
Temper, and Benignity of Manners, with unbounded
yet unostentatious Charity; added to the complete
performance of every Conjugal and Maternal Duty,
composed the character of this excellent Woman,
who is now receiving her merited reward.

This Monument was erected by her affectionate
husband,

To commemorate her virtues,

And to set forth an example for imitation.

* A beautiful engraving of this monument is given in
“*Kenilworth Illustrated*.”

50 DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH.

On the south wall of the nave, upon a brass plate, is the following singular and interesting monumental inscription :—

Reader !
Contemplate thy own Mortality
In the remains here before thee,
Of the Rev. Mr. William and Mrs. Ann Best.
The former,
With indefatigable vigilance,
For Fifty Years Vicar of this Parish.
The latter,
For Fifty Years and one his Wife.
Not one Wife in Fifty, not one Mother,
Not one Mistress of a Family, not one Neighbour,
Not one Christian in Fifty,
Has she left behind her better than herself.
Fourscore Years and Ten,
Was the good Old Age to which she lived.
1748, the Year of our Lord,
In which she died,
Eight Years after the death of her Husband,
In the Year 1740, and of his Age
Seventy-five.
Filial Piety in their Son William,
Doctor of Divinity,
Devoted this Plate
To the memory of his dearest Parents,
An. Dom. 1753, Etat : Suæ 58.

The font is circular, with T. B. W. D. I. P. 1664, upon it. During the Usurpation, a wooden turned pillar, supporting a basin,

was substituted for the original font, which probably contained some ornaments which were objectionable to the Puritans, and was in consequence destroyed. After the Restoration, the font, above described, was purchased by the parishioners.

There is also a small organ bought by subscription, for 70 guineas, about seven years since.

Before closing this description of the Church, it may be necessary to take some notice of a coffin plate, which was dug up in the south aisle in 1776, upon opening the ground for a vault; and the rather because an account of it has been printed in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, under the article *Longevity*, though with a slight error in the name of the person. The plate was of sheet iron tinned; or, as some accounts say, plated with silver, and bore the following inscription:—

Mr. James
Bowles, Obijt,
August ye 15th, 1656,
Etatis 152.

Such is the reading of a fac-simile tracing of the inscription, evidently in letters of that period; but though great pains have been

52 DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH.

taken to recover the plate itself, which was taken to London many years ago, by Wm. Stokes, the person who dug it up, it appears to be irrecoverably lost ; and the strong suspicions that exist as to a fraudulent insertion of the numeral 1 before 52, in the age of the person, cannot receive that confirmation, which there is great reason to believe an examination of it would produce.

No entry in the parish register records the burial of such a person in 1656, nor does any name at all resembling Bowles occur for many years prior and subsequent to that period.

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